



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Noel King, Director

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May 24, 2006

Curtis Weeks, General Manager
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
PO Box 930
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93902

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nacimiento and San Antonio River Integrated Watershed Management Plan Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weeks:

The County of San Luis Obispo would like to express support for the Nacimiento and San Antonio River Integrated Watershed Management Plan Consolidated Grant Application PIN# 9069 to the State Water Resources Control Board, submitted by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA). The development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for these source subwatersheds will develop an integrated solution to water resource management issues that affect an extensive constituency in two counties. It is also an important subset of the integrated regional water resource planning being initiated by MCWRA at larger scales, including the Salinas Valley, Salinas River watershed, and Greater Monterey Bay Region.

Granting this award will allow development of a Plan that will focus on the environmental and economic well being of the watersheds through stewardship. The Plan will direct strategic and comprehensive management of watershed natural resources in a practical, cost effective and responsible manner. The Plan will also provide protection and improvement of water quality for beneficial uses consistent with regional community interests. The process of developing the Nacimiento and San Antonio River Integrated Watershed Management Plan will foster a closer working relationship between local, state and federal agencies which are major landholders as well as public and private stakeholders interested in management of the lakes watershed lands.

The County of San Luis Obispo has an active interest in these watersheds and is supporting this grant application by participating as a Watershed Partner and by providing in-kind matching funds to assist with the development of the Plan. Staff from

both the County Department of Public Works and Department of Planning and Building will participate. We estimate the value of the matching funds to be \$62,000, and while that work effort is subject to the formal expenditure/appropriation approval during the County's annual budget process, the sources of funding for the expenditures is well-established and the efforts are consistent with the San Luis Region's approved Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

We encourage the State Water Resources Control Board to favorably consider this application for the Proposition 40, Integrated Watershed Management Program. The development of this plan, with the partnership of multiple organizations, will merge various strategies and develop effective solutions for water resources management and water quality programs, natural resource enhancement and other measures common to the region. As an interested party and a potential beneficiary, we support this collaborative effort that will ultimately preserve and protect water quality in important agricultural and urban source waters of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Sincerely,



NOEL KING

Director Public Works

County of San Luis Obispo

c: Paavo Ogren, Deputy Director Public Works
Pat Beck, Assistant Director Planning and Building
James Caruso, Senior Planner
Jill Falcone, Environmental Resource Specialist